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FM AMEMBASSY RIGA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4019
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL RIGA 000365

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/17/2017 TAGS: MOPS NATO PARM PREL LG

SUBJECT: CLUSTER MUNITIONS - LIMA TEXT: LATVIA OPPOSES

TOTAL BAN

REF: A. STATE 66596

¶B. RIGA 64

Classified By: Charge D'Affairs Tamir G. Waser 1.4(d)

11. (C) PolEconOff delivered ref A points May 17 to Andris Pelss, Head of Nonproliferation and Arms Control Division at the MFA. Pelss acknowledged that he had not yet seen the draft Lima Text. However, he stated that the GOL "is not looking for a complete ban" on cluster munitions (CM), and that therefore "it seems the Lima Text could go too far." He added that the GOL agrees that the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) is the correct framework in which to discuss the issue (ref B), stating "altogether, we believe the negotiating process could be opened in the CCW and we are trying to keep the discussion within the CCW." Pelss noted that the GOL does not plan to attend the Lima Conference "partly due to administrative and partly due to political reasons." He clarified that the political reason is that the GOL wants CM issues addressed within the CCW framework. WASER